

void in this institution. He has been an effective leader, a strong legislator, a fearless defender of his State, and a good friend. As he approaches retirement, I want to thank WENDELL FORD for his service to his country and congratulate him for his extraordinary career. We will truly miss him.

#### THE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF ARNOLD ARONSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to wish Arnie Aronson a happy 86th birthday and to commend him on his many achievements.

Arnie has been working for civil rights for over 50 years. He began at a time when help wanted ads openly specified "Gentile only" or "Irish need not apply." In the early 1940's he organized a coalition of religious, ethnic, civil rights, social welfare, and labor organizations into the Chicago Council Against Religious and Racial Discrimination. By 1950 he was working with Roy Wilkins and many others to organize support for President Truman's proposed civil rights effort and engineered the combination of national organizations that created the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

He and the leadership Conference were instrumental in the enactment of the first extensive Federal civil rights laws since Reconstruction, the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act, the fundamental Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the pivotal Fair Housing Act of 1968. They have been critical to our civil rights efforts at every turn every since.

The statement of purpose he drafted for the Leadership Conference says a great deal about this extraordinary man and his dedication to the rights of all:

We are committed to an integrated, democratic, plural society in which every individual is accorded equal rights, equal opportunities and equal justice and in which every group is accorded an equal opportunity to enter fully into the general life of the society with mutual acceptance and regard for difference.

Arnie went on to help organize clergy, churches, and synagogues. He was a founding member of the National Urban Coalition and a charter member of Common Cause. In the last 10 years, while well in his 70's, he assumed the presidency of the Leadership Conference Education Fund and helped invigorate its educational and public service activities.

While he gave leadership and inspiration to the country he never forgot his family. I know the influence he had on his niece and nephew, Jenette and Si Kahn.

Their lives were changed as were ours. I wish him a happy birthday.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 10, the Federal debt stood at \$5,354,330,021,048.50.

One year ago, March 10, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,017,404,000,000.

Five years ago, March 10, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,848,675,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 10, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,249,369,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 10, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,048,663,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion, \$4,305,667,021,048.50 during the past 15 years.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1342. A communication from the Acting Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of all expenditures from April 1 through September 30, 1996; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1343. A communication from the Administrator of the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to Child Nutrition Programs, (RIN0584-AC15) received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1344. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to approval of applications, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1345. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to financial reports, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1346. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to contract market review, received on March 10, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1347. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to brucellosis in cattle, received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1348. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Depart-

ment of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to quarantine regulations, received on March 7, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1349. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1350. A communication from the Director of Fiscal Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1351. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1352. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1353. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report of the Bank under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1354. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1995 annual report of the Bank under the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1355. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1356. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1357. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1358. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1359. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1360. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1361. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice concerning a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1362. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "National Flood Insurance Program" (RIN3067-AC54) received on March 6, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1363. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant